

## **Title of the Invention**

### **SANDING BLOCK**

## **Cross-Reference to Related Application**

5 This application is a continuation of United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/158,608, which was filed on May 30, 2003.

## **Technical Field of the Invention**

This invention pertains to a sanding block intended particularly for drywall-finishing uses but expected to be also useful for fiberglass-finishing uses, metal-finishing uses, wood-finishing uses, and other similar and dissimilar uses.

## **10 Background of the Invention**

Sanding blocks, which include sanding pads and sanding sponges, of various types are known. Sanding blocks of a first known type are monolithic blocks of pumice or other inherently abrasive materials, which may be porous or nonporous, which may be flexible or inflexible in normal uses, and which may be  
15 compressible or incompressible in normal uses. Sanding blocks of a second known type have cores of suitable materials, which may be flexible or inflexible in normal uses and which may be compressible or incompressible in normal uses, with abrasive materials, such as abrasive grit, emery sheets, or sandpaper sheets, which are bonded to the cores. Except as illustrated in the drawings and described  
20 herein, particulars of the cores and abrasive materials and of bonding of abrasive materials to the cores are known and are outside the scope of this invention.

As sold by Trim-Tex, Inc. of Lincolnwood, Illinois, and admitted here to constitute prior art, a sanding block of the second known type has abrasive grit bonded to a core, which is made of a flexible, compressible, polymeric foam. The  
25 sanding block is a six-sided block having two expansive sides, to each of which

abrasive grit is bonded, two adjacent sides, to each of which abrasive grit is bonded, and two lateral sides, which do not have abrasive grit and at which the core is exposed. Each adjacent side meets each expansive side at two opposite edges. The sanding block has comparatively coarser, abrasive grit bonded to a given one of the expansive sides and to a given one of the adjacent sides and comparatively finer, abrasive grit bonded to the other one of the expansive sides and to the other one of the adjacent sides.

When viewed macroscopically before the sanding block becomes worn, the sanding block is tapered at its adjacent sides so that a given one of the opposite edges defines an obtuse angle and so that the other one of the opposite edges defines an acute angle in a range from about 55° to about 70°. The acute angle enables a user holding the sanding block in one hand to sand a surface with said expansive side, as far as another surface intersecting the surface being sanded at a right angle, without scuffing the intersecting surface with the adjacent side meeting said expansive side at the acute angle. However, if the user holding the sanding block in one hand applies uneven pressure, gouging of the surface being sanded can occur easily at the opposite edge, which defines the obtuse angle.

### **Summary of the Invention**

This invention provides a sanding block conforming, when viewed macroscopically before the sanding block becomes worn, substantially to a block having two expansive sides and two adjacent sides. A given one of the expansive sides is abrasive. The given one of the expansive sides has two opposite edges, at each of which one of the adjacent sides adjoins the given one of the expansive sides. A given one of the opposite edges, when viewed macroscopically before the sanding block becomes worn, is a sharp edge. The other one of the opposite

edges, when viewed macroscopically before the sanding block becomes worn, is a curved edge.

Preferably, when viewed macroscopically before the sanding block becomes worn, the sharp edge defines an acute angle in a range from about 55° to about 70°. Preferably, when viewed macroscopically before the sanding block becomes worn, the curved edge defines a radius not less than about 1/8 inch at any location on the curved edge. Preferably, the other one of the expansive sides and the other one of the adjacent sides also are abrasive.

Herein, a given side of a sanding block is regarded as abrasive if the sanding block is inherently abrasive at the given side or if the sanding block has abrasive grit, an emery sheet, a sandpaper sheet, or other abrasive material bonded to the given side.

### **Brief Description of the Drawing**

The single figure is an isometric view of a sanding block constituting a preferred embodiment of this invention.

### **Detailed Description of the Illustrated Embodiment**

As illustrated in the drawing, a sanding block 10 constituting a preferred embodiment is of the second type described above as having abrasive grit bonded to a core, which is made of a flexible, compressible, polymeric foam. Before the sanding block 10 becomes worn, it conforms substantially to a parallelepiped having two expansive, rectangular sides 12, to which abrasive grit is bonded, two adjacent, rectangular sides 14, to which abrasive grit is bonded, and two lateral, trapezoidal sides 16, which do not have abrasive grit and at which the core is exposed. As indicated in the drawing, exemplary dimensions enabling a user to

hold the sanding block 10 comfortably in one hand are a length (L) about 5 inches, a width (W) of about 3¼ inches, and a thickness (T) of about 1 inch.

Each adjacent side 14 meets each expansive side 12 at two opposite edges. When viewed macroscopically before the sanding block becomes worn, the sanding block is tapered at its adjacent sides 14, as illustrated in the drawing. According to this invention, a given one of the opposite edges of each expansive side 12 is a curved edge 20 and the other one of the opposite edges is a sharp edge 22 defining an acute angle (A) in a range from about 55° to about 70°, an acute angle of about 70° being illustrated.

Preferably, the sanding block 10 has comparatively coarser, abrasive grit bonded to a given one of the expansive sides 12, to whichever of the adjacent sides 14 adjoins the given one of the expansive sides 12 at one of the curved edges 20, and to the curved edges 20 where they adjoin and the sanding block 10 has comparatively finer, abrasive grit bonded to the other one of the expansive sides 12, to whichever of the adjacent sides 14 meets the other one of the expansive sides 12 at one of the curved edges 20, and to the curved edges 20 where they adjoin. Alternatively, the sanding block 10 has similar grit bonded to each expansive side 12, to each adjacent side 14, and to each curved edge 20.

As indicated in the drawing, when viewed macroscopically before the sanding block 10 becomes worn, each curved edge 20 defines a radius (R) which equals about ⅛ inch at any location on the curved edge 20. Each curved edge 20 is intended to minimize gouging or scuffing due to uneven pressure being applied by a user holding the sanding block 10 in one hand, for sanding with either of the expansive sides 12 or with either of the adjacent sides 14, and to minimize damage when gouging or scuffing due thereto occurs.

Although the sanding block 10 is intended particularly for drywall-finishing uses, the sanding block 10 is expected to be also useful for fiberglass-finishing, metal-finishing, wood-finishing, and other uses.